

Appl. No. 10/810,874
Amdt. dated October 20, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 20, 2005

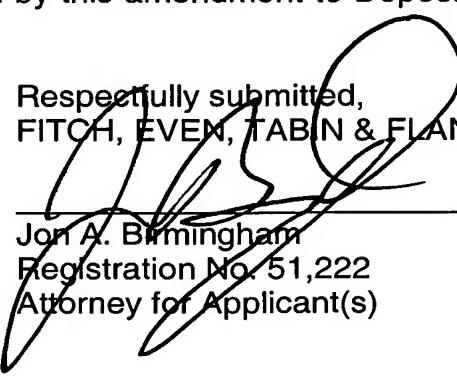
REMARKS

Claims 6-11 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to address these rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,431,085 to Saxton. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saxton. Claims 1-9 and 19-20 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,550,398 to Clark in view of Saxton. Claims 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Saxton and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,250 to Walsh. These rejections are each respectfully traversed because Saxton and Clark are not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a).

The effective filing date of the present application is August 9, 1999, the filing date of U.S. Provisional Patent App. Ser. No. 60/147,849, from which the present application ultimately claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e). See MPEP 706.02. Saxton issued on August 13, 2002, after the effective filing date of the present application. Clark issued on April 22, 2003, also after the effective filing date of the present application. Accordingly, neither Saxton nor Clark are prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 103(a). As these are either the primary or only references relied upon in the rejections, the rejections are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Please charge any fees required by this amendment to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,
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